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The Short Term (Tmax = 3 Sec) Autocorrelation Function of Echo II-Reflected Signals

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Prepared for: National Assonautics and Space Admiristration Goddard Space Flight Center Greenbett, Maryland 20731

Department of ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

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#### REPORT

by

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Contract Number

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Investigation of

Tracking, Receiving, Recording and Analysis

of Data from Echo Satellite

Subject of Report

The Short Term ( $\tau_{max} = 3 \text{ Sec}$ ) Autocorrelation

Function of Echo II-Reflected Signals

Submitted by

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Antenna Laboratory

Department of Electrical Engineering

Date

31 December 1964

### ABSTRACT

This report is one of a series dealing with various aspects of Echo-reflected signals. The purpose of this report is to present the autocorrelation function of the signals received during selected Echo II revolutions from revolution numbers 2000-3500. Some Echo I data are also included. The SPCR (specular-to-scattered power ratio) is defined and computed from the ACF's. Consideration is given to some of the errors involved in obtaining the ACF's and the effect of these errors on the final results. On basis of the large amount of data presented it is found that the SPCR for Echo II is 6-7 db, 5-6 db for Echo I. The possible ranges in the values of the SPCR, based on the possible ranges of the errors in the process of analysis, are also computed and tabulated.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page				
I.	INTRODUCTION	1				
II.	EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS	6				
ш.	SUMMARY	11				
ACK	ACKNOWLEDGMENTS					
REF	ERENCES	27				

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### THE SHORT TERM ( $\tau_{max} = 3$ SEC) AUTOCORRELATION FUNCTION OF ECHO II-REFLECTED SIGNALS

### I. INTRODUCTION

This report is one of a series dealing with various aspects of Echo-reflected signals. There are actually two series of reports. The data for the earlier series were primarily obtained from Echo II-reflected signals before revolution 2000, the data for the present series were selected from Echo I revolutions between 2000 and 3500. The two series of reports can be regarded as a single coherent unit covering the orbital lifetime of Echo II to the present. Some of the subjects considered in these series are amplitude scirtillations, echo area, power spectral density, probability density, autocorrelation, depolarization effects, and the scattering function of Echo.

The data for the present series are taken from five Echo II revolutions: 2626, 2653, 2816, 3040, 3483. The data collected on these passes are representative of all data collected during the period covering revolutions 2000-3500. Data collected on two Echo I revolutions (18, 166 and 18, 966) that occurred during this same period are also included for comparison. The purpose of this report is to present the autocorrelation functions obtained from the recent experimental data.

The signals were cw at 2260 mc/sec and originated from the Collins Space Communications Facility at Dallas, Texas. They were reflected by the orbiting Echo satellites and received by the Satellite Communication Center of the Antenna Laboratory, The Ohio State University. Detailed description of both sites can be found in the references. 1, 2 A simplified block diagram of the receiving and recording system is included here for completeness (see Fig. 1 which is mostly self-explanatory). Phase-locked demodulators were used as linear detectors. In case of a cw signal whose amplitude was constant during transmission, the AM output of the linear detector would be a steady dc value proportional to the level of received power. Figure 2 shows a sample of the recordings of the AM output of the detector which is typicall; observed for all Echo-reflected data. It can be seen that the instantaneous received power level is not a steady dc value; rather, the received power level is strongly fluctuating between the observable extremes of noise and saturation levels. A statistical method of analyzing data such as shown in Fig. 2 is to obtain its

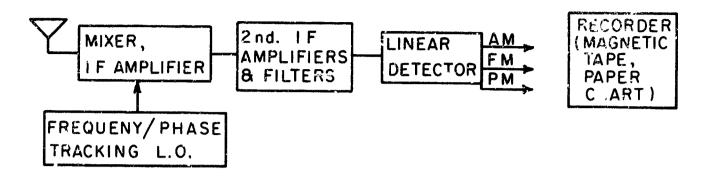


Fig. 1. Simplified block diagram of receiving and recording system.

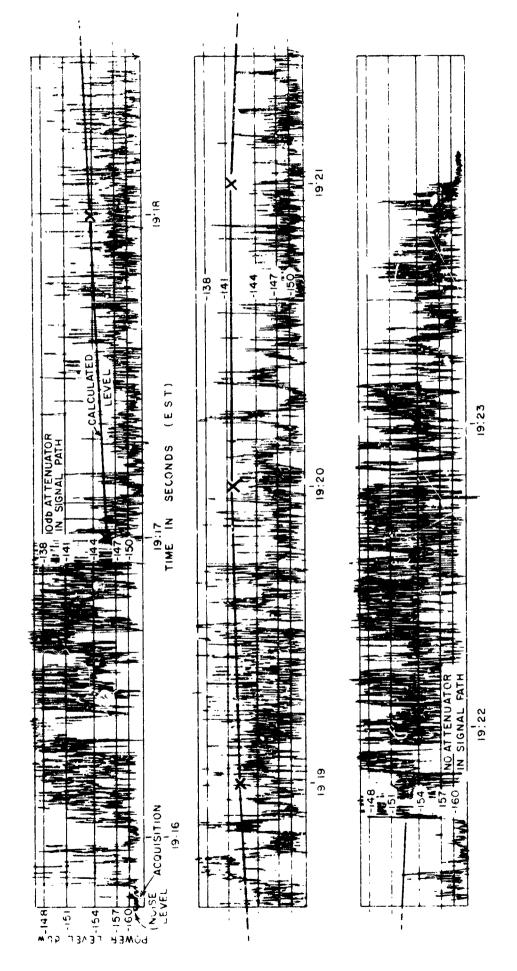
correlation function. The details of data reduction to obtain the autocorrelation function have been treated elsewhere.

Correlation by definition is a measure of the degree of interdependence between two quantities. Hence, the succorrelation function
is one that expresses the degree of interdependence between a quantity—
such as the instantaneous value of the received power—and itself. The
quantities whose interdependence is to be measured are functions of time;
their resulting ACF is a function of the relative time delay between them.
In the present case the maximum time delay,  $\tau_{max}$ , was received to
3 sec, which was 10% of the sale length, T; hence the delay riptive
name—short-term autocorrelation function.

Mathematically, the autocarrelation function ACF to saied as

(1) 
$$\phi(\tau) = \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} f(t) dt$$

where f(t) corresponds to the AM output of the linear detector, which in turn is proportional to the instantaneous level of the received power. The variations in this level can be regarded as a modulation on the amplitude of the cw signal resulting from its transmission through the Echo channel. Should the received power level cause a constant dc output from the linear detector corresponding to the case of an unmodulated cw signal, one would obtain an ACF of constant amplitude. The interpretation of such an ACF is that there is no time dependence in the data. Should the received power level cause a dc output (which is randomly varying about some average value) from the detector, corresponding to



Typical instantantous signal strength recording Echo II revolution 2626. Fig. 2.

the case of an extremely noisy signal, one would obtain an ACF whose amplitude would be maximum at no time delay, and an average value, corresponding to the dc average, for any time delay other than zero. That is, with the addition of an impulse of  $\tau=0$ , there would result an ACF similar to the previous case. The interpretation of such an ACF is that the portion of the data causing the impulse in the ACF is very strongly time dependent. The two cases are shown in Fig. 3.

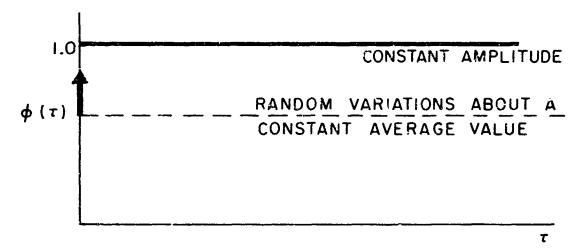


Fig. 3. Normalized autocorreation functions of a constant amplitude function and of one of random variations about a constant amplitude.

The ACF's of Echo-reflected signals fall between the above two extremes. This indicates that when a steady amplitude signal is passed through the Echo channel it acquires an amplitude modulation by the noise present in the channel. Most of the noise probably originates at the target since the Echoes are regarded as essentially spherical in shape but with small-scale surface roughness. The reflecting characteristic of such a surface is shown in Fig. 4. The specular component is from the spherical shape and the scattered components are from the numerous surface irregularities. Both Ecnoes are moving and in addition to the orbital motion a spin is claimed for Echo II; thus the scattered components will continually vary in amplitude. Were the reflector perfectly smooth, its motion, including spinning, would not give rise to scattered components of varying amplitudes; and were the reflector stationary the roughness of its surface again would not produce variations in the amplitude of the total reflected signals. Thus, the two proposed mechanisms, rough surface and moving target, combine to yield a total reflected signal which is composed of two parts: an average steady component due to specular reflection and a fluctuating component due to scattering.

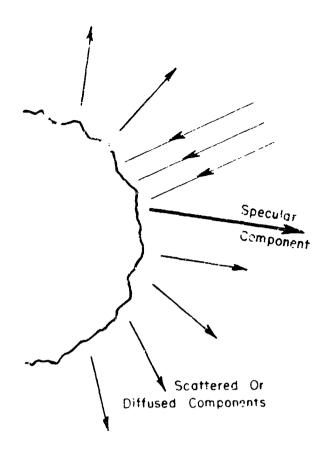


Fig. 4. A model of a spherical reflector with surface roughness.

The average level of the received power at the detector output is not correlated with the fluctuating component, hence the ACF of  $\tau=0$  is the sum of the mean square value of the fluctuating component and the mean square value of the average level, normalized to unity. As  $\tau$  is increased, because of the noisy nature of the fluctuating component the correlation of this component with itself decreases. Eventually, the value of the ACF will only be proportional to the mean square value of the average level < y > 2. This fact provides a convenient method to obtain the ratio of the specular and scattered powers:

(2) 
$$\frac{\text{specular power}}{\text{scattered power}} = \frac{\langle y \rangle^2}{1 - \langle y \rangle^2} = \text{SPCR}.$$

Equation (2) will be used to express the specularity of the reflection from the satellites. It follows that a large value of specularity implies a smooth reflecting surface and vice-versa. Presumably the specularity is a function of the bistatic angle of scattering measured at the satellite, and the position of the flare spot on the reflector. The position of the flare spot, in turn, is a function of the orbital motion and the possible

simpling of the setablite. These effects cannot be evaluated here unless one assurption are made about the possible rotation of the satellite; for the specularity will be combuted using Eq. (2) directly.

### U. EXPERIMENT'L OPULAS

The data on the instant is the recommendative power level were stored on magnetic tare whose is quency responsible as the recommendative adequate to recommend the reason which is abundantly adequate to recommend the reason will require the present in the amplitude spinkilla in multiple recommendative medications and the recommendative recommendative as the respective type recommendative segments on the clark was synchronized to the actual tare. The trace on the chart was immortised by drawing a time brough the center of the trace but it was a greatly divided by the linear trace of the center of the trace.

the chart that was made in terms of deflection at the output of the receiving system per db change at the 30 mg/sec i put. This linearization curve was accuratally approximated with polynomials (nighest order used: tenth) which in turn were used to effectively remove most of the nonlinearities from the data. The chart recording was sampled 50 times per second, thus the data were digitized. Equation (1) was suitably modified for the digitized data:

(3) 
$$\phi(\tau) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{X=1}^{N} f_{X} f_{X} + \tau,$$

where N is the number of digitized data points. N was on the order of 1500, corresponding to sample lengths of 30 seconds. Equation (3) was programmed on an IBM 7094 and the statistical estimate of the ACF given in Eq. (1) was obtained.

Both the sampling rate and the sample length impose limitations on the accuracy of the estimate of the ACF. If one requires at least four points to establish the frequency of a given waveform then the sampling rate of 50/sec imposes an upper limit of 13 cps on the frequency resolution inherent in the ACF's. If the original data contained a periodic component with angular frequency  $w_0$ , then it follows that the ACF will also contain the same periodic component as the sample length is increased without limit. For finite sample lengths, however, there will be an error in the ACF and the magnitude of this error is inversely proportional to the sample length T. Solodovnikov<sup>5</sup> treats this problem and recommends that T must be at least  $10T_0$  where  $T_0 = 2\pi/w_0$  and

the maximum time delay should be less than  $2T_0$  for an error not exceeding 2%. All time delays used in generating the ACF's in this report were conservatively restricted to  $1T_0$ . Using Solodovnikov's results the finite sample lengths impose a lower limit of 1/3 cps on the frequency resolution inherent in the ACF's. These two limits of frequency resolution, 1/3 to 13 cps, are very important considerations when one attempts to obtain the power spectral density function from the ACF.

The finite length T also imposes a limit on the accuracy with which the mean square value (that value to which all the graphs are apparently asymptotic) of the ACF can be determined. Several articles in the literature deal with expected statistical errors in measurements on random functions, e.g., Reference 6. The ausolute mean square error,  $\sigma_{\mathbf{m}}^2(T)$ , in the measurement of the mean of the random process is given by

(4) 
$$\sigma_{\mathbf{m}}^{2}(T) = \frac{2}{T} \int_{0}^{T} \left(1 - \frac{\tau}{T}\right) \left[R_{y}(\tau) - \langle y \rangle^{2}\right] d\tau$$
.

In the case of the ACF of Echo-reflected signals, the second quantity under the integral sign can be approximated by<sup>4</sup>

(5) 
$$R_{V}(\tau) - \langle y \rangle^{2} = e^{-a\tau}$$

where a is the slope of the ACF at  $\tau = 0$  and it can best be determined experimentally. Thus, Eq. (4) reduces to

(6) 
$$\sigma_{\mathbf{m}}^{2}(\mathbf{T}) = \frac{2}{\mathbf{T}} \int_{0}^{\mathbf{T}} \left(1 - \frac{\tau}{\mathbf{T}}\right) e^{-a\tau} d\tau,$$

which can be evaluated as

(7) 
$$\sigma_{\rm m}^2(T) = \frac{2}{a^2 T^2} (aT + e^{-aT} - 1).$$

The term  $e^{-aT}$  in Eq. (7) for  $a \ge 1/4$  and T = 30 is less than 0.0006; hence it is negligibly small in comparison with unity and it will be dropped. Equation (7) reduces to

(8) 
$$\sigma_{\rm m}^2(T) = \frac{30 \, a - 1}{450 \, a^2}$$

Equation (8) is an expression for the absolute mean square error in the measurement of the true mean evaluated for use with the ACF's in this report. Since all ACF's are normalized to unity, an expression for the relative mean square error is wanted. This expression is simply

(9) 
$$\epsilon_1 = \frac{\sigma_{\text{rn.}}^2(T)}{\langle y \rangle^2} = \frac{30 \text{ a-1}}{450 \text{ a}^2} \frac{1}{\langle y \rangle^2}.$$

Figures 5-11 show the ACF of Echo-reflected signals. In all these figures are shown individual ACF's that were prepared from data obtained at different times during the revolution indicated. On these individual ACF's the true mean square value <y>2 is estimated. In all instances the last graph for a given figure shows all the ACF's plotted to the same scale on a single graph. On this last graph the experimentally determined maximum and minimum slopes are indicated, together with the corresponding estimated values of <y>2. In Figs. 5-11 there appears to be a considerable amount of uncertainty as to the value of  $\langle y \rangle^2$ . The expanded scale is somewhat misleading, however. To obtain a quantitative evaluation of the magnitude of uncertainty involved in estimating <y>2, the maximum and minimum values of  $\phi(\tau)$  were measured for each graph and the difference was expressed in percentage of the arithmetic average of the maximum and minimum values of  $\phi(\tau)$ . Thus the maximum percentage error,  $\epsilon_{\mathbf{2}}$ , in estimating the true mean square average value is given by

(10) 
$$\epsilon_{2} = 2 \frac{\phi_{\max}(\tau) - \phi_{\min}(\tau)}{\phi_{\max}(\tau) + \phi_{\min}(\tau)} \times 100.$$

Equation (10) is labeled as maximum percentage error since in many instances an obviously quite accurate estimate can be obtained for  $\langle y \rangle^2$ , e.g., Fig. 5(c). Table I lists the  $\phi_{max}(\tau)$  and  $\phi_{min}(\tau)$  values and the evaluated  $\epsilon_2$  for all ACF's. In obtaining  $\phi_{max}(\tau)$  and  $\phi_{min}(\tau)$  values  $\tau$  was restricted to the interval:  $0.5 \le \tau \le 2.5$ . It can be seen from Table I that the most often occurring values for  $\epsilon_2$  are 5 and 10; and 25 out of 28 entries are 10 or less. Thus the arithmetic average of all  $\epsilon_2$  is taken to be the representative value; this average is seven per cent.

TABLE I MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE ERROR,  $\epsilon_2$ , IN ESTIMATING THE TRUE MEAN SQUARE AVERAGE VALUE OF THE ACF'S

ACF			b			С				d	e				
Revo- lution Number	φ <sub>max</sub> (τ)	φ <sub>min</sub> (τ)	€3	φ <sub>max</sub> (τ)	φ <sub>min</sub> (τ)	€z	φ <sub>max</sub> (τ)	φ <sub>min</sub> (τ)	٠,2	b <sub>max</sub> (τ)	φ <sub>min</sub> (τ)	٠,2	ф <sub>Пгах</sub> (т)	∳min(τ	
2626	.84	.76	10	.85	.79	7	. 83	.79	5						
2653	. 84	.80	5	. 86	.79	8	. 87	.77	12	. 84	.76	10	. 83	. 80	4
2816	. 87	.84	3	.86	. 83	4	. 82	.76	8	.88	. 85	3	. 85	. 80	6
3040	.83	.79	5	. 84	.77	9	.83	.75	10	. 88	.81	8	. 87	. 82	6
3483	.78	.69	12	. 82	.78	5	. 81	.73	10	. 83	.77	8			
18166	.79	.68	15	.72	.65	10	.87	.79	10	. 83	.79	5		[	<b>[</b>
18966	. 87	. 82	6	. 88	. 83	5	. 84	.78	7						

One can now utilize Eq. (2) to obtain the SPCR, and have a quantitative feeling for the accuracy of the values obtained. Table II lists the <y>2 values and the SPCR's. The latter values are given in db.

TABLE II
MEAN SQUARE AVERAGE VALUES OF ACF'S
AND ESTIMATES OF SPECULAR-TO-SCATTERED
POWER RATIOS

ACF	a	a		ار.	G	:	•	i	е	
Revo- lution Number	<y>²</y>	SPCR	< y>2	SPCR	< y>²	SPCR	<y>2</y>	SPCR	<y>²</y>	SPCR
2626	.81	6.3	. 81	6.3	, 80	6.0	- ,	_	-	• -
2653	. 82	6.6	.83	6.9	.81	6.3	.78	5,4	. 81	6.3
2816	. 86	7.9	.85	7.4	.79	5.8	. 87	8.1		
3040	. 82	6.4	.80	5.9	.77	5.3	.83	6.7	. 85	7.5
3483	.74	4.6	. 82	6.4	.74	4.6	.79	5.8	.64	2,5
18166	.72	4.1	.68	3.3	. 84	7.2	.81	6.3	. 66	2.9
18966	. 84	7.0	. 84	7.2	.81	6.3	-	- [	-	-

It appears from Table II that the SPCR of Echo-reflected signals is around 6 db and that on basis of the experimental data utilized there are no apparent large discrepancies between the SPCR's obtained from Echo I and from Echo II data.

TABLE III
ERROR IN THE STATISTICAL ES'IIMATE
OF THE MEAN SQUARE AVERAGE VALUE

Revolution Number	α <sub>max</sub>	<y>2</y>	$\epsilon_1$	amin	<y>2</y>	$\epsilon_1$
2626	1.25	.80	6.6%	.50	.81	15.5%
2653	.96	.82	6.9%	.48	.83	15.5
2816	1.25	.79	15.9	.50	. 82	15.5
3040	. 80	.80	10	.50	. 85	14.7
3483	.50	.79	15.7	.40	.74	20.4
18, 166	.50	.84	14.7	.24	.81	27
18,966	.60	.84	12.6	.30	.84	7.1

One can now utilize the <y>2 values from Table II to evaluate Eq. (9) for the  $\epsilon_{i,\bullet}$  Table III lists the maximum and minimum values for the slope and the corresponding values of  $\langle y \rangle^2$  and  $\epsilon_1$ . It can be seen from Table III that the error in the statistical estimate of the mean square average value is in excess of ten per cent. The procedure used to obtain the values given in Table III assumes that the mean square average can be obtained from experimental data. It was concluded on a basis of the  $\epsilon_2$  values given in Table I that the mean square average can be found with an accuracy of 17%. Hence, the  $\epsilon_1$  values have an uncertainty associated with them that is also ±7%. This uncertainty will not cause any drastic changes in the tabulated  $\epsilon$ , values. It seems, then, that an average value of  $\epsilon_1 = 15\%$  will be a sufficiently conservative estimate for the upper limit of the total error involved in obtaining the mean square average value to which the autocorrelation functions are asymptotic. The effect of this 15% error on calculating the SPCR is quite significant. Table IV has been prepared to show the effect of this error. On the basis of the results presented in Table IV one may conclude that the ratio of specularly reflected power and scattered power in an Echo IIreflected cw signal at 2260 mc/sec is about 6-7 db. The few experimental results obtained from representative Echo I returns indicate that the SPCR for that passive satellite is 5-6 db. The effect of the error in obtaining the mean square average value of an ACF prepared from sampled data of finite length can be quite significant. While it is not the purpose to discuss here the theoretical significance of the maximum and minimum SPCR's, it is pointed out that by applying corrections for the error in the statistical estimate of the ACF, maximum values of 15-16 db and minimum values of 1-2 db were obtained for the

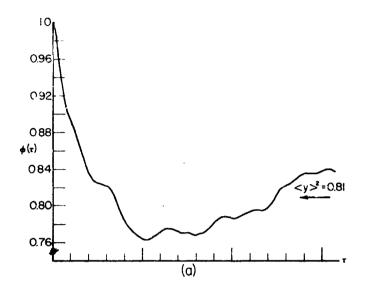
SPCR. These are limiting values rather than ones that would closely and consistently agree with the experimental data. This is not to imply, however, that they are not possible values.

TABLE IV
SPECULAR-TO-SCATTERED POWER RATIOS
OF ECHO-REFLECTED SIGNALS

ACF .			<b>b</b>			с			d			e			
Revi- lution Number	SPCR	SPCR Max	SPCR Min	SPCR		SPCR Min	SPCR	SPCR Max	SPCR Min	SPCR	SPCR. Max	SPCR Min	SPCR	SPCR Max	SPCR Min
2626	6.3	11.2	3.5	6.3	11.3	3.5	6.0	10.6	3.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
2653	6.6	12.1	3.6	6.9	13.2	3.8	6.3	11.3	3.5	5.4	9.4	3.0	6.3	11.3	3.5
2815	7.9	9.2	4.4	7.4	16.3	4.2	5.8	10.0	3.1	8.!	-	4.6	-	-	-
30 <b>4</b> 0	6.4	12.1	3.6	5.9	10.6	3.3	5.3	8.9	Z.8	6.7	13.2	3.8	7.5	16.3	4.2
3483	4.6	7.5	2.3	6.4	12.l	3.6	4.6	7.5	2.3	5.8	10.0	3.1	7.5	4.5	1.0
18, 166	4.1	6.6	2.0	3.3	5.5	1.4	7.2	14.7	4.0	6.3	11.3	3.5	2.9	5.0	1.1
18, 966	7.0	15.0	4.0	7.2	14.7	4.0	6.3	11.3	3.5	-	-	-	-	-	-

### III. SUMMARY

This report is one of a series dealing with various aspects of Echo-reflected signals. The data for this report were obtained recently during Echo II revolutions 2000-3500; some data are also included from Echo I-reflected signals which were selected from the same period as when the Echo II data were collected. The purpose of this report is to present the autocorrelation function of the received signals. Some discussion is devoted to the theoretical aspects of the autocorrelation function and the SPCR (specular-to-scattered power ratio) is defined. The method to obtain the SPCR from the ACF is given. A large amount of experimental data is presented. A brief explanation is presented on the method of data reduction and its adaptation to digital, computerized techniques. Consideration is given to some of the errors involved in obtaining the statistical estimate of the ACF and the effect of these errors on the final results. It is found that for the experimental conditions involved in collecting the data the SPCR of Echo II-reflected signals is 6-7 db, and 5-6 db for Echo I-reflected signals. When the results are corrected for the possible errors involved in the statistical process the possible ranges in the SPCR's are obtained. Thus the maximum possible SPCR of an Echo-reflected signal based on available data is 15-16 db and the minimum is a few db.



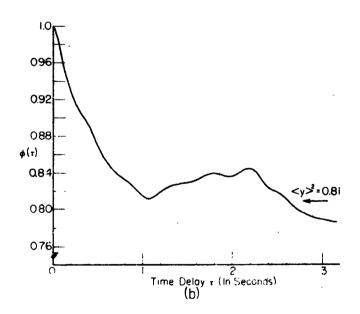
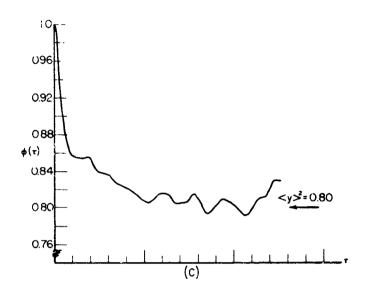


Fig. 5. ACF of Echo II reflected signals. Revolution 2626.



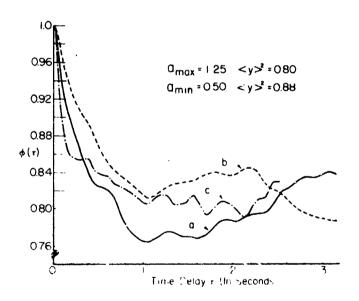


Fig. 5. ACF of Echo II reflected signals. Revolution 2626.

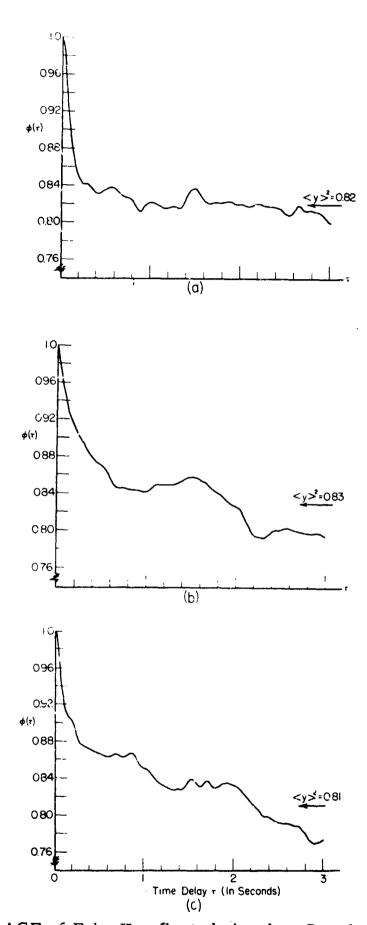


Fig. 6. ACF of Echo II reflected signals. Revolution 2653.

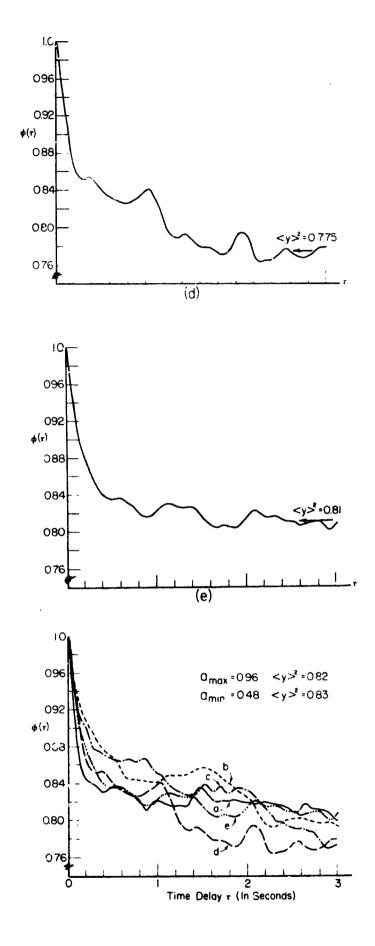
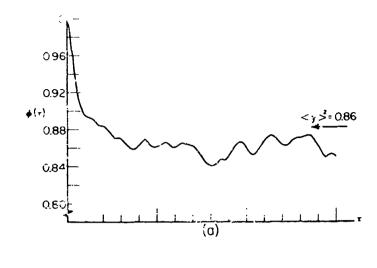
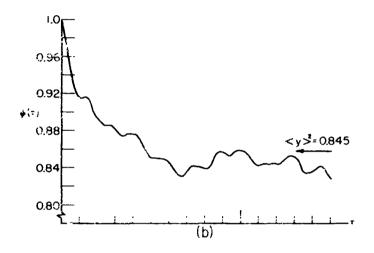


Fig. 6. ACF of Echo II reflected signals. Revolution 2653.





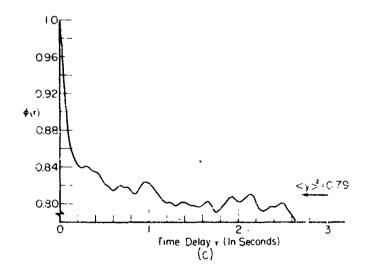


Fig. 7. ACF of Echo II reflected signals. Revolution 2816.

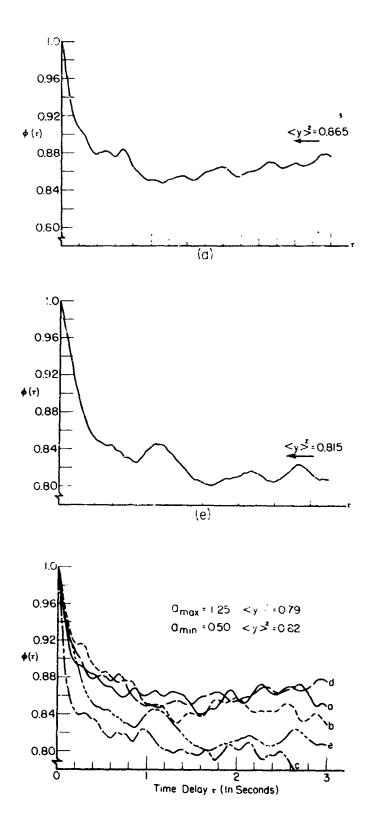


Fig. 7. ACF of Echo II reflected signals. Revolution 2816.

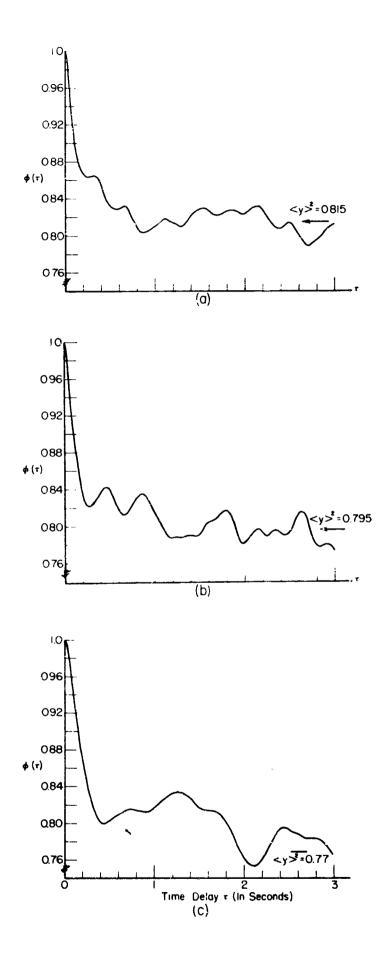


Fig. 8. ACF of Echo II reflected signals. Revolution 3040.

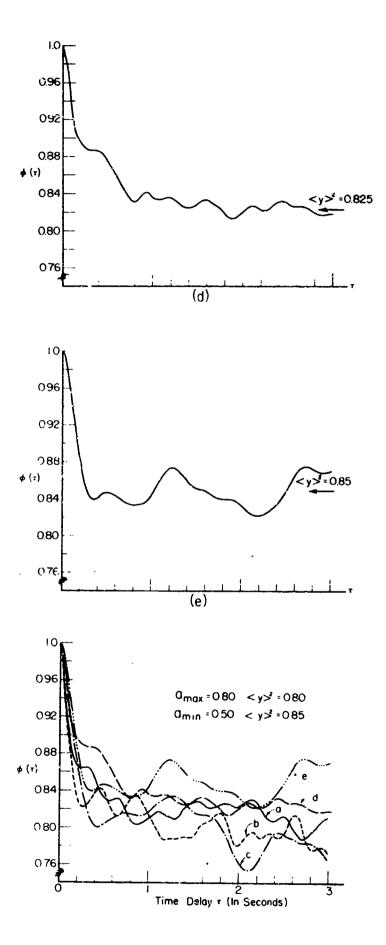
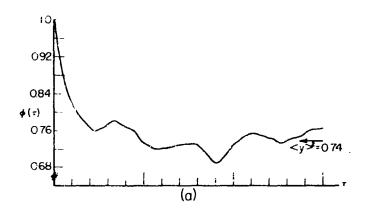
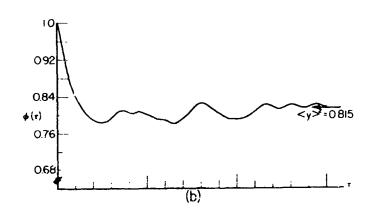


Fig. 8. ACF of Echo II reflected signals. Revolution 3040.





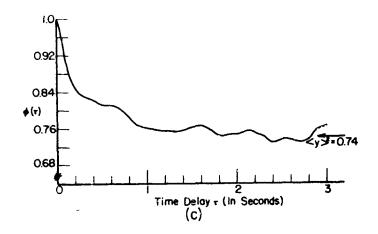
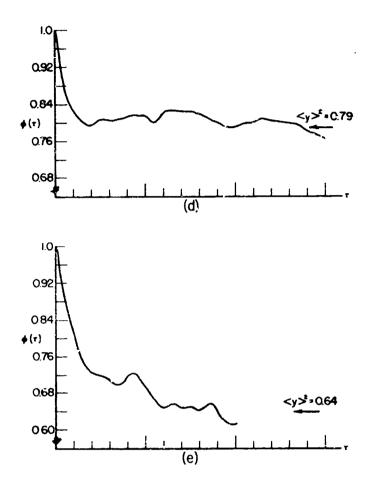


Fig. 9. ACF of Echo II reflected signals. Revolution 3483.



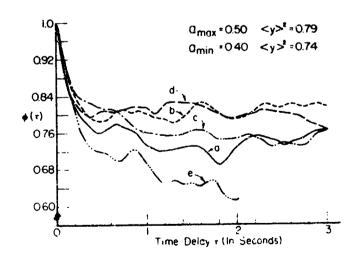


Fig. 9. ACF of Echo II reflected signals. Revolution 3483.

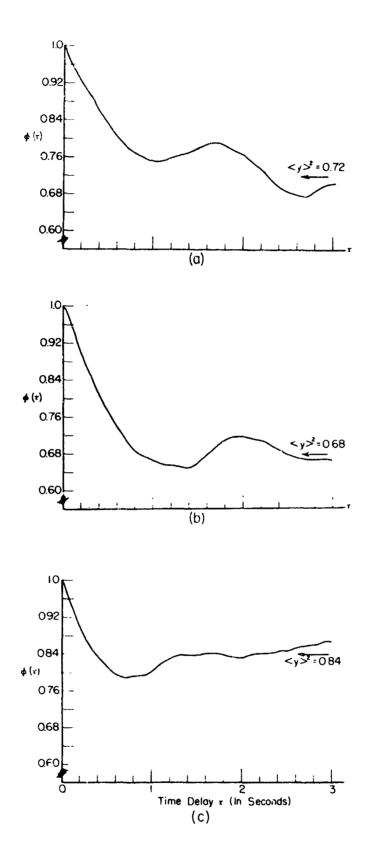
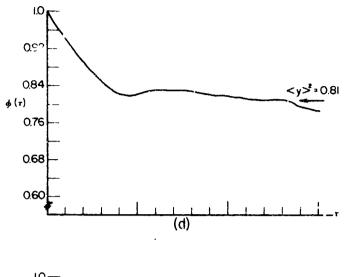
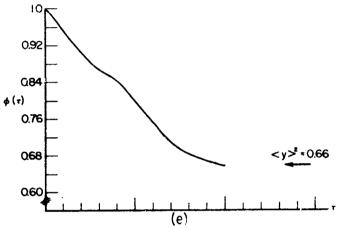


Fig. 10. ACF of Echo I reflected signals. Revolution 18,166.





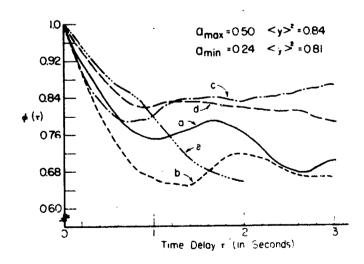
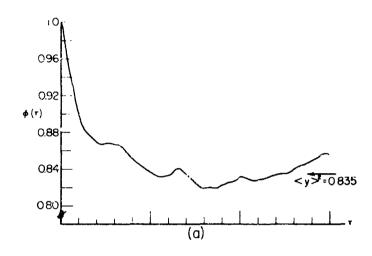


Fig. 10. ACF of Echo I reflected signals. Revolution 18,166.



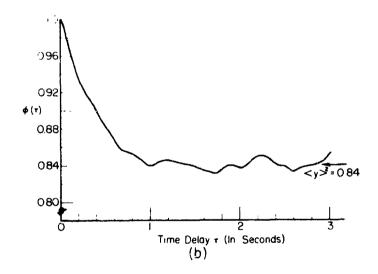
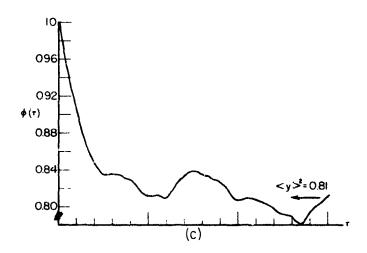


Fig. 11. ACF of Echo I reflected signals. Revolution 18,966.



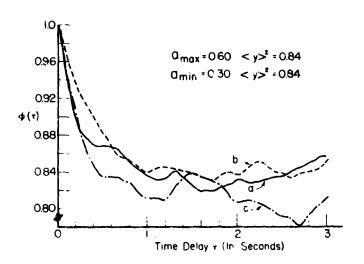


Fig. 11. ACF of Echo I reflected signals. Revolution 18,966.

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